THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) has recently forwarded their observations on an audit titled "Deep Water Exploration" relating to Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC). They have observed that unfruitful expenditure has been incurred by ONGC.

(c)During the period from March, 2003 to January, 2008, no new oil fields have been given to ONGC for production. However, during this period 39 exploration blocks have been awarded to ONGC (with operatorship) in various rounds of the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). In addition, ONGC has participating interest in eight other blocks, awarded during this period where other consortium partners are operators.

ONGC also acquired a Block (KG-DWN-98/2) with 90% Participating Interest and operatorship from Cairn Energy India Pvt. Limited (CEIL) in 2005.

Oil refinery at Allahabad

1971. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Public Sector Oil Company proposes to set up an oil refinery at Allahabad;

(b) whether the government has finalized its view in this regard; and;

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Consequent on de-licensing of refinery sector since June, 1998 a refinery may be set up anywhere in India by a Private or Public Sector Enterprise depending on the promoter's assessment of its commercial viability. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited has a proposal for setting up of a 7 MMTPA refinery at Lohagara district Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh. The project is linked to the commissioning of the refinery being set up by Bharat Oman Refineries Limited (a Joint Venture Company of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and Oman Oil Company Limited) at Bina, as the crude oil import facilities being set up for Bina Refinery project would be augmented suitably to take care of crude requirement for this refinery project also.

Achievement of the target for production of crude oil

†1972. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target was fixed to enhance the production of crude oil for the year 2007-08 in country;

(b) if so, what was that target and to what extent it was more than the production target for 2006-07;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

(c) whether target production between April 2007 and January 2008 has been achieved for the year 2007-08; and

(d) if not, the details thereof and the quantum of shortfall in production against target alongwith reasons therefor.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The projected estimate for production of crude oil during the year 2007-08 in the country was 37.69 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) against the actual production on 33.98 MMT during the year 2006-07.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The production of crude oil from April 2007 to January 2008 is less than the projected estimates for the same period. During the period April, 2007 to January, 2008 the shortfall in crude oil productions against pro-rated target was about 2.942 MMT. The reasons for shortfall in production are as follows:

1. Ageing and natural decline in some of oil fields.
2. Shortfall in ONGC's North-Gujarat field was due to evacuation constraints.
3. Increased incidences of bandhs, blockades, miscreants activities etc. in the installations of ONGC & OIL in Assam.
4. Less production due to maintenance of wells.
5. Increase in rate of water cut.
6. Shortfall in contribution from Exploratory drilling efforts.
7. Poor availability of offshore rigs resulting in less than envisaged side track well in Mumbai Offshore.
8. Consequential effects of unfortunate fire accident at Bombay High North (BHN). Platform in July, 2005 especially with respect to well fluid handing capacities in Mumbai High North. (MHN)
9. Less than envisaged gain from Improved Oil Recovery (IOR)/Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) schemes.
10. Decline in base production mainly in Assam Asset.

Translucent fibreglass cylinder

1973. SHRI AJAY MAROO:
SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether to check frequent consumer complaints of LPG Cylinders being delivered underweight, proposes to introduce translucent fibreglass LPG cylinders to enable the consumers to view the level of LPG inside when delivered;

(b) whether a Norwegian company has obtained clearance from the Chief Controller of Explosives to manufacture the cylinders in India; and

(c) whether the oil marketing companies in India will entertain similar offers from other